

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 15936 130941Z

20

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

/057 W

----- 119021

R 130829Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9393

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 15936

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, RP

SUBJECT: JAPANESE KIDNAPPING IN MINDANAO

REF: A) MANILA 15884 B) MANILA A-80

1. ACCORDING MANILA PRESS, "TOP MNLF COMMANDER IN SULU" AND 1,000 FOLLOWERS SURRENDERED TO ADMINAL ESPALDON ON NOV. 10. "TOP COMMANDER" IDENTIFIED AS HAJI ABUBAKAR MUALLAM SAHIBAL OF LUUK, JOLO. AS PER USUAL SCENARIO, REBELS PROMISED TO AID GOP IN PEACE AND ORDER DRIVE. WE ASSUME THAT LIKE SEEMINGLY INNUMBERABLE PREDECESSORS, LATEST SURRENDEREES WILL BE FLOWN TO MANILA TO BE POSED WITH PRESIDENT.

2. INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY INDICATES THAT "TOP COMMANDER" SAHIBAL WAS COOPERATING WITH GOVERNMENT AS EARLY AS 1973 AND WAS NEVER MORE THAN A LOCAL LEADER.

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MASS OF SURRENDERS PUBLICIZED IN RECENT MONTHS (WHICH

GOP CLAIMS HAVE CUT ALLEGED REBEL ARMED STRENGTH OF 16,000 ALMOST IN HALF) ARE MOSTLY OF SAME DUBIOUS CHARACTER. TODAY'S PRESS LET SLIP THAT ONE OF MUSLIM KIDNAPPERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY HOLDING JAPANESE TUNA FISHERMEN (REF A) WAS AT ONE TIME A "REBEL RETURNEE." WE SUSPECT THAT SUCH "RECYCLING" IS COMMON.

3. WITHOUT VENTURING INTO STATISTICS GAME IN FIELD WHERE FIRM INFORMATION LACKING, GOP'S CURRENT ESTIMATE OF REBEL STRENGTH MORE OR LESS IN LINE WITH EMBASSY ESTIMATE (REF B). HOWEVER, REBEL STRENGTH HAS BEEN FAIRLY CONSTANT AND OBVIOUSLY HAS NOT BEEN AFFECTED BY BOGUS SURRENDERS AS GOP ALLEGES.  
SULLIVAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PARAMILITARY FORCES, SURRENDER  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 NOV 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** 75 MANILA 15884, 75 MANILA A-80  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 JUL 2003  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** JAPANESE KIDNAPPING IN MINDANAO  
**TAGS:** PINS, RP, (HAJI ABUBAKAR MUALLAM SAHIBAL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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